

What is claimed is:

1. A manually releasable clip holder for receiving, holding and manually releasing a serpentine clip comprising:

- 5 a base-plate, the base plate being substantially flat,
an insert coupled to the base-plate, the insert having an insert cover positioned over the base plate to form an insert channel over the base plate, the insert cover having a top edge and a bottom edge, the insert channel having an insert channel entrance adjacent the insert cover top edge,
10 a flap pivotally coupled to the base plate, the flap having a top and bottom edge,
a spring coupled to restore the flap to a predetermined restored position with the flap bottom edge positioned above the insert cover top edge.

2. The manually releasable clip holder of claim 1 wherein the insert has an insert
15 cover, the insert cover has an insert cover inner surface facing the base plate and an outer surface, and wherein, the flap is restored to position the flap bottom edge above the insert cover top edge, the spring and flap are coupled to return the flap bottom edge to a limit position at which the flap bottom edge protrudes beyond the insert cover outer surface by a predetermined insert cover outer surface to flap bottom
20 edge clearance distance that is greater than zero.

3. The manually releasable clip holder of claim 1 wherein the base-plate has a top end and a bottom end, the top end having
a receiving fold formed from a first flange region,
25 the flap having top edge positioned in the receiving fold of the base plate,
the spring coupled between the base-plate and the flap being formed and coupled to the base plate to restore the flap to its restored position and to hold the flap top edge in the receiving fold.

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4. The manually releasable clip holder of claim 1 further comprising:

a body, the base-plate forming the floor of the body, the base-plate having a top end, a bottom end and a longitudinal axis, the insert having a longitudinal axis aligned with the longitudinal axis of the base plate,

the flap being formed from a thin walled plate material having a left edge, a right edge, a top edge, and a longitudinal axis parallel to the longitudinal axis of the base plate, the flap being formed to have left and right flap pivot flanges extending outward from the left edge and the right edge transverse to the longitudinal axis from root locations near the top edge,

the body having a left sidewall and a right sidewall, the left side wall and the right side wall being positioned to be substantially normal to the base plate, each sidewall having a respective flap flange receiving hole formed therein to receive a corresponding left and right flap pivot flange to permit the flap to pivot on the left and right flap pivot flanges.

5. The manually releasable clip holder of claim 1 wherein:

the base-plate is substantially rectangular, formed from thin walled material and having a top end, a bottom end, a left edge and a right edge, a left side wall being formed on the left edge, a right side wall being formed on the right edge, each respective sidewall extending vertically from the base-plate,

the flap being formed from a thin-walled material and having a left edge, a right edge, and wherein the flap further comprises:

a rod coupled to the flap near to the top end, the rod extending past the flap's left edge and the right edge parallel to the top bottom edge and forming a flap pivot axel having a left and a right axel end,

the left side wall and the right side wall each having a hole formed therein to receive the corresponding left and right axel end,

the flap thereby using the rod as a pivot axel for the flap.

6. The manually releasable clip holder of claim 1 further comprising:

a body, the base-plate forming the floor of the body, the body being formed from a thin wall plate material, the base-plate having a top end, a bottom end and a longitudinal axis, the insert having a longitudinal axis aligned with the longitudinal axis of the base plate, and a leather pad having at least one belt loop, the body being coupled to the leather pad.

7. A manually releasable clip holder for receiving and holding a serpentine clip coupled to a tool or object, the manually releasable clip holder comprising:

10 a body having a base-plate positioned between a left sidewall and right sidewall, the base-plate being substantially rectangular and having a top end, a bottom end and a longitudinal axis passing between the left sidewall and the right sidewall, the left and right side wall extending vertically from the base-plate,

an insert coupled to the base plate between the left and right side walls, the insert having an insert left side wall coupled to the body, an insert right side wall coupled to the body, the insert left and insert right side walls supporting an insert cover positioned between the insert left sidewall and insert right sidewall, the insert cover having an outer surface and an inner surface, the insert cover inner surface facing the base-plate, the insert cover having a top edge and a bottom edge, the insert left sidewall, insert right sidewall and insert cover inner surface forming an insert channel having a channel aperture, the insert cover top edge forming a portion of the perimeter of the insert channel aperture.

20 a flap having a top edge, a bottom edge, a left edge, a right edge and a longitudinal axis parallel to the longitudinal axis of the base plate, the flap being pivotally coupled on a pivot axis to the body, the pivot axis being located to position the flap bottom edge above the insert channel top edge,

25 a spring coupled to the body and to the flap to restore the flap to a restored position with the bottom edge positioned above the channel aperture, a separation between the flap bottom edge in the restored position and the insert cover top edge forming a window to the channel aperture.

8. The manually releasable clip holder of claim 7 wherein the base-plate has:
a receiving fold formed from a first flange region,
the flap top edge being positioned into the receiving fold of the base plate,
5 the spring coupled between the base-plate and the flap being formed to hold the
flap top edge in the receiving fold.
9. The manually releasable clip holder of claim 7 wherein the body and the base-
plate forming the floor of the body, are formed from a thin wall plate material, and
10 wherein the insert has a longitudinal axis that is aligned with the longitudinal axis of the
base plate
the flap being formed from a thin walled plate material, the flap being formed to
have left and right flap pivot flanges extending outward from the left edge and the right
edge transverse to the longitudinal axis of the flap and from root locations near the top
15 edge,
the left sidewall and a right sidewall of the body each having a flap flange
receiving hole formed therein to receive a respective left pivot flange and right flap
pivot flanges to permit the flap to pivot on the left and right flap pivot flanges.
- 20 10. The manually releasable clip holder of claim 7 wherein the flap further
comprises:
left and right travel limit flanges, and wherein
the body left sidewall and right sidewall have corresponding left and right travel
limit apertures, the flap left and right travel limit flanges being positioned in the body's
25 corresponding left and right travel limit apertures.

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11. The manually releasable clip holder of claim 7 further comprising:

a flap travel limit means for limiting the pivotal travel of the flap to stop the insert cover bottom edge at a restored limit position, the flap bottom edge protruding a predetermined clearance distance beyond the insert cover outer surface, the clearance distance being greater than zero, and

a leather pad having at least one belt loop, the body being coupled to the leather pad.

12. A manually releasable clip holder for receiving and holding an article with a serpentine clip comprising:

an integral and homogenous combination, spring and flap, formed from a single sheet of thin walled spring material, the combination, spring and flap having a top region forming a flap with a bottom edge having a left end and a right end, a bottom region forming a base-plate having a right end and a left end,

a left spring leg region and a right spring leg region forming a left and right spring leg, the left and right spring legs extending from the base-plate left end and right end to corresponding flap bottom edge left end and right ends,

an insert, the insert having an insert left side wall and an insert right side wall, the insert left and right side walls being separated by a cover, the insert left sidewall and insert right side walls being coupled to the base-plate, the cover being positioned to form an insert channel between the base-plate and the cover, the insert left and insert right sidewalls and the cover each having a top edge, the insert left and insert right sidewall top edges forming an aperture at the entrance to the insert channel, the left spring leg and a right spring leg being formed to provide a restoring force to position the flap bottom edge above the insert cover top edge forming a window to the channel aperture,

a flap travel limit means for limiting the pivotal travel of the flap to stop the insert cover bottom edge at a restored limit position protruding a predetermined insert cover outer surface to flap bottom edge clearance distance greater than zero.

13. The manually releasable clip holder of claim 12 further comprising:
at least a first body shell flange coupled to the base-plate, the body shell flange having an overhang displaced from the base plate and protruding over a portion of the flap at a distance from the base plate selected to limit the return motion of the flap to limit the distance that the flap bottom edge moves beyond the outer surface of the insert cover top edge to a predetermined clearance between the insert cover top edge and the flap bottom edge.
- 10 14. The manually releasable clip holder of claim 12 further comprising:
a leather pad having at least one belt loop, the body being coupled to the leather pad.
- 15 15. The manually releasable clip holder of claim 12 wherein the insert left sidewall and insert right sidewalls and the cover have bottom edges positioned to be above the base-plate, the left spring leg and a right spring leg extending on alternate sides of the insert sidewalls beyond the cover top edge to join the flap at corresponding ends of the flap lower edge.
- 20 16. A manually releasable clip holder for receiving and holding a serpentine clip comprising:
a body having a base-plate region with a longitudinal axis and extended regions on alternate sides of the longitudinal axis, the alternate sides being shaped and bent to form a left body sidewall and a right body side wall normal to the base-plate region, the base-plate having a top end and a bottom end,
25 an insert of thin walled material having the insert left sidewall and an insert right side wall, and an insert cover, the insert left and right sidewall and the insert cover each having an outer surface, an inner surface and a top and bottom edge, each side wall being coupled to the body between the body left and body right body sidewalls,
30 the insert left and right side walls supporting the insert cover above the base-plate, the insert cover top edge, and the insert left and right sidewall top edges forming a

channel aperture at the entrance to an insert channel positioned between the insert channel left and right sidewalls and above the floor of the base-plate,

the body base-plate having an extended region shaped and bent at a base-plate top-end to form a shoulder, the shoulder leading to a further extended base-plate region
5 shaped to form a flap having a bottom edge distal from the shoulder, the shoulder being formed to position the flap above the base-plate,

the flap bottom edge being positioned above the insert cover top edge to form a window to the channel aperture, the flap shoulder material being shaped to allow the flap to be displaced toward the base-plate in response to a light manual force applied to
10 the flap or in response to a light deflection force from a serpentine clip pressing against the flap to admit the clip into the insert channel, the shoulder functioning as a spring between the base-plate and the flap to provide a restoring force to return the flap to a predetermined restored position with a separation between the flap bottom edge in the restored position and the insert cover top edge and

15 means for limiting the distance that the flap bottom edge moves beyond the outer surface of the insert.

17. The manually releasable clip holder of claim 1 where in the means for limiting the distance that the flap bottom edge moves beyond the outer surface of the insert
20 further comprises:

a flap having left and right travel limit flanges, and wherein
the body left sidewall and right sidewall have corresponding left and right travel limit apertures, the flap left and right travel limit flanges being positioned in the body's corresponding left and right travel limit apertures to limit the travel of the flap when the
25 flap is in the restored position.

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18. A manually releasable clip holder for receiving and holding a tape measure clip comprising::

5 a body having a base-plate region with a longitudinal axis and extended regions on alternate sides of the longitudinal axis, the alternate sides being shaped and bent to form a left body sidewall and a right body side wall normal to the base-plate region, the base-plate having a top end and a bottom end,

10 an insert of thin walled material having the insert left sidewall, an insert right side wall, and an insert cover, the insert sidewall and the insert cover each having an outer surface, an inner surface and a top and bottom edge, each insert side wall being coupled to the base-plate between the left and right body sidewalls,

the insert left sidewall and insert right side wall supporting the insert cover above the base-plate, the insert left sidewall top edge and right sidewall top edge, the insert cover top edge forming a channel aperture at the entrance to an insert channel between the insert channel left and right sidewalls and above the floor of the base-plate,

15 a flap having a bottom edge and a first region that extends away from the flap bottom edge to a top shoulder, the top shoulder being followed by a second region formed to extend in the direction of the flap bottom edge, the second region terminating in a hook shoulder, the hook shoulder being formed to extend into a hook flange region in the direction of the base plate top end,

20 the body base-plate having a base aperture positioned above the flap lower edge, the flap first region, top shoulder, foot flange region, hook shoulder and hook flange being formed to permit the hook flange to be inserted through the base aperture, each region and shoulder being formed and coupled to the base plate to position the flap lower edge above the insert cover top edge, to form a window to the channel aperture, 25 the flap being displaced toward the base-plate in response to a light manual force or in response to a light deflection force from a serpentine clip to admit the clip into the insert channel via the insert aperture.

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19. The manually releasable clip holder of claim 18 wherein
the top shoulder, foot flange, hook shoulder and hook flange functioning as a
spring between the base-plate and the flap to provide a restoring force to return the flap
to a predetermined restored position with a separation between the flap bottom edge in
5 the restored position and the insert cover top edge,
wherein a means for limiting the distance that the flap bottom edge moves
beyond the outer surface of the insert cove comprises:
a flap having left and right travel limit flanges, and wherein
the body left sidewall and right sidewall have corresponding left and right travel
10 limit apertures, the flap left and right travel limit flanges being positioned in the body's
corresponding left and right travel limit apertures.
20. The manually releasable clip holder of claim 18 further comprising:
means for limiting the distance that the flap bottom edge travels beyond the
15 insert cover outer surface to establish an insert cover outer surface to flap bottom edge
clearance distance when the flap is in the restored position.

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